

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4-5, and 11 have been cancelled. Claim 1 limitations have been explicitly inserted in now-independent claims 2 and 3. Claim 10 has been amended to correct a typographical error. All amendments have been made to place the application in better form for appeal.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 11 has been cancelled, thus obviating this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ung, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,694,000 (hereinafter "Ung"), in view of Joyce, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,381,316 (hereinafter "Joyce") cited on the Ung patent.

Claims 1 and 4-5 have been cancelled. Claims 2 and 3 recite prepaid functionality that is not explicitly covered by Ung or Joyce.

Claims 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neal, U.S. Patent No. 6,411,685 (hereinafter the '685 patent), in view of O'Neal, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,640,242 (hereinafter the '242 patent).

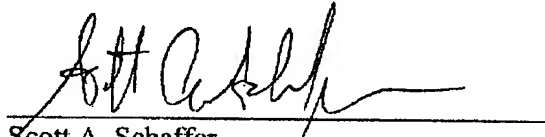
Applicants acknowledge O'Neal's disclosure of presenting faxes and voice mail over the web, but there is not mention about the "prepaid" features claimed in the present claims. The present invention embodies not just a "charge" asserted for the fax and voice mail, as taught in O'Neal, but also a host of integrated features of pre-paid like stored balance and advanced rating features (like rating per byte, by page, etc.)

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-3, 6-10 and 12 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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